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(54) Location dependent service providing method and system

(57) In a service provider system, a service provider provides service information dependent on location information of a mobile terminal to the mobile terminal in response to a service request with the location information sent by the mobile terminal. A communication con-

trol unit controls communication between the mobile terminal and the service provider. The communication control unit converts a user identifier of the mobile terminal in the service request to a temporary identifier for the communication.

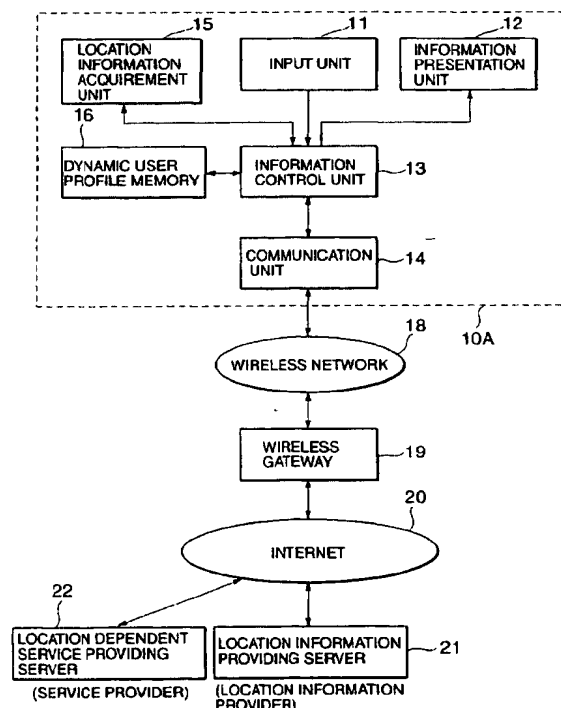


FIG. 1

Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a service providing method and system for providing various services to a mobile terminal such as a cellular-phone or a portable handy-phone.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] In an advertisement displayed on an Internet homepage, i.e., banner advertisement, geographical boundaries do not exist because of the reach of the world wide Web. Accordingly, in order to advertise toward the world without the local limit, banner advertisement is a useful system. However, from a position of a user, even if the user finds an interesting advertisement and if the user can not actually utilize the service propagated by the advertisement, for example, if a store which sells a commodity propagated by the advertisement is located at remote place where the user can not easily go, this advertisement is not useful for the user.

[0003] On the other hand, in a TV broadcast or a radio broadcast, program contents are common for each area in the same country. However, the commercial content (CM) is different for each area and presents useful information for the audiences.

[0004] TV and radio audiences enjoy the common TV/radio program contents and the local commercial contents. They can purchase commodities based on the local advertisement information they obtain from the TV/radio broadcast. The contents via the mobile terminal are the same and independent on the mobile terminal location. It is not useful for the mobile terminal users to obtain the same advertisement nevertheless where they are. If the mobile terminal users obtain the location dependent advertisement information, they can immediately go the store or restaurant informed, and enjoy shopping or foods.

[0005] Furthermore, in Internet access by some cellular-phone terminal, i.e., i-mode, at the time of dialing to connect the terminal to the Internet, the telephone numbers provides a particular user ID of the cellular-phone. By EC (electronic commerce) technique attracting attention recently, if a commodity is purchased using the Internet, personal information such as a credit card number in addition to the user ID is transmitted. In case that the advertisement service is executed for the cellular-phone terminal through the Internet, it is necessary for the service provider side to strictly identify the user who requests the advertisement service. The necessity that the provider must identify the user occurs if the user actually executes the commodity purchase activity by watching the advertisement. However, a wireless access by present cellular-phone is realized on the assumption that information to identify the user of the terminal, i.e., the user ID, is transmitted. Therefore, even

if the user simply watches the advertisement, anonymity is not guaranteed. If anonymity is not guaranteed, the user does not wish to watch the advertisement undecided for the user to utilize. As a result, the advertisement service itself using such a cellular-phone becomes meaningless or valueless.

[0006] As mentioned-above, in the prior art, as for the mobile terminal such as the cellular-phone, the service suitable for the portability of the mobile terminal is not presented.

[0007] Furthermore, in a service access to the Internet by the cellular-phone, if the provided service is an advertisement, the information to identify the user such as the user ID is disclosed notwithstanding that the provider need not originally identify the user. Accordingly, the user's anonymity is not maintained.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] It is an object of the present invention to provide a service providing method for providing a service suitable for movement to the mobile terminal.

[0009] It is another object of the present invention to provide a service providing system for anonymously presenting a user of the mobile terminal to a service.

[0010] According to the present invention, there is provided a service providing method, comprising the steps of: obtaining location information of a mobile terminal sent by the mobile terminal; and providing a service dependent on the location information to the mobile terminal in response to a service request sent by the mobile terminal.

[0011] Further in accordance with the present invention, there is also provided a service providing system, comprising: a service provider configured to provide a service dependent on location information of a mobile terminal to the mobile terminal in response to a service request with the location information sent by the mobile terminal; and a communication control unit configured to control communication between the mobile terminal and said service provider, wherein said communication control unit converts a user identifier of the mobile terminal in the service request to a temporary identifier.

[0012] Further in accordance with the present invention, there is also provided a service providing system, comprising: a user identification service provider configured to provide a service necessary to identify a user to a mobile terminal of the user; a user non-identification service provider configured to provide a service unnecessary to identify the user to the mobile terminal; and a communication control unit configured to control communication between the mobile terminal, said user identification service provider, and said user non-identification service provider, wherein said communication control unit converts a user identifier of the mobile terminal in service request information sent by the mobile terminal to a temporary identifier.

[0013] Further in accordance with the present inven-

tion, there is also provided a mobile terminal, comprising: a dynamic user profile memory configured to store a dynamic user profile representing information dynamically changed by a time passage, the dynamic user profile including location information of the mobile terminal; and a communication unit configured to send a service request with the dynamic user profile to a location dependent service provider, and to receive a service information sent by the location dependent service provider, the service information depending on the location information in the dynamic user profile.

[0014] Further in accordance with the present invention, there is also provided a computer-readable memory containing computer-readable instructions for a mobile terminal, comprising: an instruction unit to store a dynamic user profile representing information dynamically changed by a time passage, the dynamic user profile including location information of the mobile terminal; an instruction unit to send a service request with the dynamic user profile to an external server; and an instruction unit to receive service information sent by the external server, the service information depending on the location of the mobile terminal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a mobile terminal and a service providing system according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

[0016] Fig. 2 is an example of a dynamic user profile according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[0017] Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of processing flow of providing a location dependent service according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[0018] Figs. 4A and 4B are examples of a service request information table and service request information in a wireless gateway according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[0019] Figs. 5A and 5B are examples of a service request information table and service response information in a location dependent service providing server according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

[0020] Fig. 6 is a schematic diagram of an example use image of the mobile terminal.

[0021] Fig. 7 is a block diagram of the mobile terminal and the service providing system according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

[0022] Figs. 8A and 8B are examples of a dynamic user profile and a static user profile according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

[0023] Figs. 9A and 9B are examples of information stored in a dynamic user profile memory and a static user profile memory according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

[0024] Figs. 10A and 10B are examples of communication control information tables based on the dynamic user profile and the static user profile according to the

second embodiment of the present invention.

[0025] Fig. 11 is a block diagram of the mobile terminal and the service providing system according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

[0026] Fig. 12 is a schematic diagram of processing flow of providing a service according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

[0027] Fig. 13 is a schematic diagram of application service according to the third embodiment of the present invention.

[0028] Fig. 14 is a schematic diagram of concept of the service providing system according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0029] Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention are explained below with reference to the drawings.

(The first embodiment)

[0030] Fig. 1 is a block diagram of the mobile terminal and the service providing system according to the first embodiment of the present invention. This system consists of the mobile terminal 10A, a wireless gateway 19 mutually connecting a wireless network 18 and an Internet 20, a location information providing server 21 and a location dependent service providing server 22 connected to the Internet 20. The mobile terminal 10A is, for example, the cellular-phone or a portable information terminal. The mobile terminal 10A includes an input unit 11 such as various kinds of keys commonly found on a cellular-phone, an information presentation unit 12 such as a display or a speaker, an information control unit 13 including a CPU, a communication unit 14 including an antenna to transmit to and receive from the external world by wireless, a location information acquirement unit 15, and a dynamic user profile memory 16. Hereinafter, an internal component of the mobile terminal 10A is explained in detail.

[0031] The input unit 11 executes various kinds of operations including an input operation to select a service to be provided for the mobile terminal 10A as the operation related to the present invention.

[0032] The information presentation unit 12 presents location information acquired by the location information acquirement unit 15, or location information sent by the location information providing server 21, and service information provided by the location dependent service providing server 22 to the user.

[0033] The location information acquirement unit 15 acquires present location information of the mobile terminal 10A from discrimination information of a building located near or neighboring to the mobile terminal using a communication method such as "Bluetooth", "IrDA", or a wireless tag, and provides the location information

to the information control unit 13.

[0034] The location information acquirement unit 15 may be omitted if location information having the accuracy necessary to decide the present location of the mobile terminal 10A is always provided by the location information providing server 21. Conversely, if the present location information of the mobile terminal 10A is always acquired by the location information acquirement unit 15, the location information providing server 21 may be omitted. Of course, the location information acquired by both the location information acquirement unit 15 and the location information providing server 21 may be used.

[0035] The dynamic user profile memory 16 stores information dynamically changed by a location change or a time passage of the mobile terminal 10A, in a user profile as the information related to the user of the mobile terminal 10A. Concretely, as shown in Fig. 2, (1) the location information of the mobile terminal 10A, (2) a location dependent/independent indication information representing a distinction whether the user receives the location dependent service or the location independent service, and (3) other location dependent information, are stored as the dynamic user profile. In this case, as the location information of the mobile terminal 10A in the dynamic user profile, the location information acquired by the location information acquirement unit 15 or the location information provision server 21 is used. Furthermore, in the dynamic user profile, user ID information related to the user's privacy is not included.

[0036] The communication unit 14 transmits/receives normal communication information of the mobile terminal 10A, and transmits a service request and the dynamic user profile stored in the dynamic user profile memory 16. Furthermore, the communication unit 14 transmits the location information acquired by the location information acquirement unit 15 and a location information request for provision of the location information to the location information providing server 21. Furthermore, the communication unit 14 receives the location information provided by the location information providing server 21 and the service information provided by the location dependent service providing server 22.

[0037] The information control unit 13 executes various kinds of information control such as a receipt of input from the input unit 11, a presentation control for the information presentation unit 12, a control of the location information acquirement unit 15, and a taking of acquired location information, control of read/write of the dynamic user profile memory 16, a providing of sending data to the communication unit 14 and a taking of receiving data from the communication unit 14.

[0038] Next, the wireless gateway 19, the location information providing server 21, and the location dependent service providing server 22 are explained. The communication unit 14 of the mobile terminal 10A is connected to the wireless gateway 19 through the wireless network 18. The wireless network 18 includes a base

station communicating with the mobile terminal 10A and a mobile exchange connected to the base station, and it is connected to the wireless gateway 19. The wireless gateway 19 mutually connects the wireless network 18 and the Internet 20 as a communication network connected by the location information providing server 21 and the location dependent service providing server 22, and executes a protocol conversion. Furthermore, as a control related to the present invention, the wireless gateway 19 controls communication among the mobile terminal 10A, the location information providing server 21, and the location dependent service providing server 22 through the wireless network 18 and the Internet 20.

[0039] The location information providing server 21 remotely acquires a present location of the mobile terminal 10A independent of the location information acquirement unit 15, and provides location information such as the latitude and the longitude to the mobile terminal 10A. For example, the location of the mobile terminal 10A is acquired by GPS. Furthermore, in case that the wireless network 18 is a PHS type network, the communicatable zone is narrow in comparison with normal cellular-phone network. Therefore, the location of the mobile terminal 10A is comparatively acquired as high accuracy by detecting the zone in which the mobile terminal 10A operates. In case that the wireless network 18 is the cellular-phone network of a CDMA system, the communicatable zone is large in comparison with the PHS type network. However, two or three base stations always catch the mobile terminal 10A. Therefore, the location of the mobile terminal 10A is also comparatively acquired with a high accuracy.

[0040] The location dependent service providing server 22 receives the dynamic user profile transmitted by the mobile terminal 10A, and provides a service dependent on the location of the mobile terminal 10A to the mobile terminal 10A according to the location information in the dynamic user profile. This location information is acquired by the location information acquirement unit 15 or provided from the location information providing server 21 to the mobile terminal 10A. In this case, the service dependent on the location of the mobile terminal 10A includes, for example, various kinds of advertisements directed to the area where the mobile terminal 10A is located, for example, an advertisement of a store such as a restaurant and gift shop, coupon information, an advertisement such as a tourist resort, a theme park, a lodging institute, a cinema theater, an introduction of a special product, a guidance of public institute, a weather forecast, traffic guidance, and guidance to various events. Furthermore, in the first embodiment, the location information providing server 21 and the location dependent service providing server 22 are respectively retained and controlled by a location information provider and a service provider. However, both servers 21 and 22 may be retained and controlled by the same provider.

[0041] Next, a flow of provision processing of the lo-

cation dependent service according to the first embodiment is explained by referring to Fig. 3. Fig 3 shows an information exchange among the mobile terminal 10A, the wireless gateway 19, the location information providing server 21, and the location dependent service providing server 22 in case of providing the location dependent service. Assume that a user carrying the mobile terminal 10A desires to receive traffic guidance to reach a destination. In this case, the mobile terminal 10A accesses a service provider of the traffic guidance including the location dependent service providing server 22. A location of the user's present place is informed to the location dependent service providing server 22. Hereinafter, a case that this location information is provided from the location information providing server 21 to the mobile terminal 10A and supplied to the location dependent service providing server 22 is explained.

[0042] When the user operates a service request to receive a location dependent service such as traffic guidance through the input unit 11 of the mobile terminal 10A, a request for location information is transmitted from the mobile terminal 10A before the service request is transmitted. For example, the request for location information includes a user ID. The user ID is not necessary to be an absolute ID. It may be an ID assigned from several IDs prepared by the wireless gateway 19 in order to temporarily discriminate from other user IDs. The request for location information transmitted by the mobile terminal 10A is sent to the location information providing server 21 through the wireless network 18, the wireless gateway 19 and the Internet 20.

[0043] In response to this request for location information, the location information providing server 21 acquires, for example, location information (x, y) consisting of the latitude and the longitude measured by GPS, and sends the location information to the mobile terminal 10A. In the mobile terminal 10A receiving the location information from the location information providing server 21 through the Internet 20, the wireless gateway 19, and the wireless network 18, a location information as one part of the dynamic user profile stored in the dynamic user profile memory 16 is updated.

[0044] The mobile terminal 10A transmits the updated dynamic user profile with the service request information. The information of service request and the updated dynamic user profile sent from the mobile terminal 10A are received by the wireless gateway 19 through the wireless network 18.

[0045] The wireless gateway 19 stores a table of communication control information as shown in Fig. 4A. In this table, a service request ID (p1, p2, ...) representing a packet ID of the service request sent from the mobile terminal, a service provider name (PR1, PR2, ...) controlling the location information providing server 22 as the destination of a service request packet, a location information ((X1, Y1), (X2, Y2), ...) of the mobile terminal, a user temporary ID (UID1, UID2, ...), a parameter (ds1, ds2, ...) necessary to actually provide the service

are correspondingly stored.

[0046] In this case, the user temporary ID (UID1, UID2, ...) is a temporarily assigned ID to specify the mobile terminal as a providing destination of the service sent from the location dependent service providing server 22. The user temporary ID corresponds to the user ID as the user's actual ID of the mobile terminal by a user ID correspondence table (not shown) of the wireless gateway 19. In short, in the wireless gateway 19, the user ID of the mobile terminal is replaced by the user temporary ID (Randomize (user ID → temporary ID) in Fig. 3) in order to conceal the user ID from the outside.

[0047] The parameter (ds1, ds2, ...) is, for example, the latitude and the longitude representing the destination, or the address information if, for example, the location dependent service is traffic guidance. The parameter may be a time list in case of non-arriving at the destination.

[0048] In Fig. 4A, the service request packet of the service request ID "P3" does not include location information, and a column of the location information is "NULL". In this case, the wireless gateway 19 decides that the service request packet of the service request ID "P3" is not transmitted to the location dependent service providing server 22. Accordingly, the wireless gateway 19 transmits the service request packet to the location information providing server 21 and obtains the location information. In this way, after all contents of the packet are prepared, the service request packet is transmitted to the location dependent service providing server 22. The wireless gateway 19 sends the service request and the dynamic user profile to the location dependent service providing server 22 according to the table of communication control information shown in Fig. 4A.

[0049] In this case, in the service request packet, the user temporary ID is excluded as shown in Fig. 4B. The service request packet without a user temporary ID is transmitted. Accordingly, for example, it is prevented that a service provider having the location dependent service providing server 22 knows the user ID from the user temporary ID and it is effective to keep the privacy secret. Furthermore, when the wireless gateway 19 transmits the service request and the dynamic user profile to the location dependent service providing server 22, ID of the wireless gateway 19 is also transmitted (not shown in Fig. 4B). In this way, after the wireless gateway 19 transmits the service request and the dynamic user profile to the location dependent service providing server 22, the location dependent service providing server 22 creates service information such as traffic guidance as the location dependent service information according to the location information and the parameter included in the dynamic user profile, and transmits it as service response information to the wireless gateway 19.

[0050] The location dependent service providing server 22 receives a plurality of service requests from the wireless gateway 19 in each place. The location dependent service providing server 22 stores the received

service request in a service request information table. As shown in Fig. 5A, in the service request information table, a service request ID (p1, p113, ...), a wireless gateway ID (WG1, WG11, ...) of the wireless gateway 19 as the destination, location information ((X1, Y1), (X2, Y2), ...) of the mobile terminal 10A, and the parameter (ds1, ds2, ...) are correspondingly stored. The location dependent service providing server 22 creates service information for the service request by referring to this table and sends a service response.

[0051] For example, as shown in Fig. 5B, if the service information sil for the service request of the service request ID "p1" is created, the location dependent service providing server 22 finds the wireless gateway ID as the destination of the service information sil by referring to the service request information table shown in Fig. 5A. In this case, the wireless gateway ID is "WG1". Therefore, as for the wireless gateway 19 whose ID is "WG1", the service information sil with the service request ID and the location information of the mobile terminal 10A are transmitted as service response information as shown in Fig. 5B. In this case, as for the service request received by the same wireless gateway 19, for example, as shown in Fig. 5B, as for the service request of the service request ID "P1, P9" received by the wireless gateway 19 of ID "WG1" in the table of Fig. 5A, created service information "si1, si9" with the service request ID and the location information of the mobile terminal 10A may be sent to the wireless gateway 19 together.

[0052] The wireless gateway 19 compares the service response information sent in the format shown in Fig. 5B with the communication control information table shown in Fig. 4a, and specifies the mobile terminal to receive the service response information. For example, it is checked whether the service request ID "p1" in Fig. 5B is included in the communication control information table in Fig. 4A. If the service request ID "P1" is not included, a corresponding mobile terminal does not exist. Therefore, the wireless gateway 19 sends back the service response information to the location dependent service providing server 22. If the service request ID "p1" is included in the communication control information table shown in Fig. 4A, it is checked whether the location information corresponding to the service request ID "p1" in Fig. 5B is the same as the location information corresponding to "p1" in Fig. 4A. If this location information is the same, the user temporary ID corresponding to the service request ID "p1" is extracted from the communication control information table in Fig. 4A, the user ID corresponding to the user temporary ID is recognized by referring to the above-mentioned user ID corresponding table (Randomize (temporary user ID → user ID) in Fig. 3), and the service response information is sent to the mobile terminal 10A of the user ID.

[0053] Fig. 6 shows one example of a mobile terminal for traffic guidance service according to the first embodiment. For example, the user inserts the terminal 1 into a pocket and goes to the destination while the user

hears the service information of route guidance through a headphone 2. Furthermore, the user speaks a service request through a microphone 3.

[0054] In this way, in the first embodiment, by using the location information provided by the location information provision server 21 or acquired by the location information acquirement unit 15 of the mobile terminal 10A, the location information service providing server 22 provides the service of local advertisement or guidance dependent on the location of the mobile terminal 10A to the mobile terminal 10A. Furthermore, in the first embodiment, from the user side carrying the mobile terminal 10A, the user ID is managed as the user temporary ID by the wireless gateway 19, and both the user ID and the user temporary ID are not sent to the server 22 in order to keep them secret. Therefore, the user ID and the user's personal privacy are not disclosed to the service provider, and the user can safely receive the service dependent on the location.

(The second embodiment)

[0055] Fig. 7 is a block diagram of the mobile terminal and the service providing system according to the second embodiment of the present invention. In the second embodiment, in addition to the dynamic user profile memory 16, the mobile terminal 10B includes a static user profile memory 17 for storing a static user profile not changed by the location change and the time passage.

[0056] A location independent service providing server 23 receives the static user profile transmitted from the mobile terminal 10B, and provides a service independent on a location of the mobile terminal 10B to the mobile terminal 10B. It is retained and managed by a service provider. The service provider for managing the location independent service providing server 23 may be the same as a provider for managing the location dependent service providing server 22 or the location information providing server 21.

[0057] In the same way as in first embodiment, the dynamic user profile memory 16 stores information dynamically changed according to a location change and a time passage of the mobile terminal 10B, in a user profile as the information related to the user of the mobile terminal 10B. As shown in Fig. 8A, (1) the location information of the mobile terminal 10B, (2) a location dependent/independent indication information representing a distinction whether the user receives the location dependent service or the location independent service, and (3) other location dependent information are stored as the dynamic user profile.

[0058] In the dynamic user profile, user ID information related to the privacy of the user of the mobile terminal 10B is not included.

[0059] On the other hand, the static user profile memory 17 stores static information not changed by a location change and a time passage of the mobile terminal

10B in a user profile as the information related to the user of the mobile terminal 10B. As shown in Fig. 8B, (1) the user ID of the mobile terminal 10B, (2) a user liking information representing the user's taste (For example, the user likes French food, the user's hobby is cinema appreciation, and the user likes a tourist resort.), and (3) a location independent information are stored. When the user outputs the service request from the mobile terminal 10B, a distinction whether the user requests the location dependent service from the location dependent service providing server 22 or the location independent service from the location independent service providing server 23 is determined by the location dependent/independent indication information registered in the dynamic user profile memory 16.

[0060] Figs. 9A and 9B show examples of memory contents of the dynamic user profile memory 16 and the static user profile memory 17 in the second embodiment. As shown in Fig. 9A, the dynamic user profile consists of history information (For example, date (tn, tn-1, ...) when the location information is acquired), the acquired location information ((X1, Y1), (X2, Y2), ...), and a parameter (ds1, ds2, ...). In case of traffic guidance as the location dependent service, the parameter (ds1, ds2, ...) consists of the latitude and the longitude of the destination, or a list of address information. In this way, the dynamic user profile changes over time as, for example, the location of the mobile terminal 10B or the service request in the user profile changes. In short, the information does not infringe the user's privacy. The service request is transmitted and the provided service is received without identifying the user.

[0061] On the other hand, the static user profile is information not changed over short period of time in the user profile, and it consists of a user ID (AUI), a valid term (YYMMDD), and a parameter (uf1) as shown in Fig. 9B.

[0062] The wireless gateway 19 distinctly treats the dynamic user profile and the static user profile from the mobile terminal 10B as follows. Figs. 10A and 10B respectively show a communication control information table based on the dynamic user profile and the static user profile stored in the wireless gateway 19. As for a control based on the dynamic user profile, in the same way as the first embodiment, the wireless gateway 19 issues a user temporary ID to identify the user, and stores the communication control information table as shown in Fig. 10A. Then, based on the communication control information table, the wireless gateway 19 excludes the user temporary ID from the service request and the dynamic user profile, and sends the service request and the dynamic user profile to the location dependent service providing server 22 in a format including an ID of the wireless gateway 19.

[0063] On the other hand, the static user profile including information related to the user's privacy maintains a high secrecy level. Therefore, as shown in Fig. 10B, the wireless gateway 19 stores the communication

control information table. This table consists of a service request ID (up1, up2, ...) to discriminate the service content, a service provider name (PR1, PR2, ...), a user temporary ID (au1, au2, ...), and a parameter (ds11, ds12, ...) necessary for the service. Then, based on the communication control information table, the wireless gateway 19 sends the service request and the static user profile to the location independent service providing server 23 by a format including ID of the wireless gateway 19.

[0064] In this case, as for the user temporary ID in Fig. 10A and the user temporary ID in Fig. 10B, a different ID is assigned to the same user of the mobile terminal 10B. The user temporary ID (UID1, UID2, ...) generated from the dynamic user profile is generated whenever the user requests a service, and a fixed user temporary ID is not assigned to the same user. Therefore, if a hacker breaks into the wireless gateway 19, and even if the hacker finds a place of the user unspecified at that time, the hacker cannot identify each user. In the same way, the user temporary ID (au1, au2) generated from the static user profile is not linked to the location information of the user. Therefore, even if the user informs a credit number for charge payment, and if the user does not permit, the hacker cannot know where the user is located and what the user did.

[0065] In this way, in the second embodiment, the user obtains the location information of the mobile terminal 10B without identification of the user, and separately receives the location dependent service from the location dependent service providing server 22 and the location independent service such as payment necessary to identify from the location independent service providing server 23.

(The third embodiment)

[0066] Fig. 11 is a block diagram of the mobile terminal and the service providing system according to a third embodiment of the present invention. In the third embodiment, instead of the location information providing server 21, a user non-identification service providing server 31 for providing a service not requiring a user identification such as the location information to the mobile terminal 10B is set, and a user identification service providing server 32 for providing a service requiring a user identification such as the purchase of a ticket or commodity to the mobile terminal 10B is set, which are different from the second embodiment. The user non-identification service providing server 31 may be the same as the location information providing server 21, or may include a function of the location information providing server 21. In the same way, the user identification service providing server 32 may be the same as the location dependent information providing server 22, or may include a function of the location dependent service providing server 22.

[0067] In the second embodiment, the wireless gate-

way 19 does not especially discriminate the service provider (server) to send the dynamic user profile and the static user profile respectively stored as a format of the communication control information table shown in Figs. 10A and 10B. However, in the third embodiment, the dynamic user profile is sent to the user non-identification service providing server 31 and the static user profile is sent to the user identification service providing server 32. In this way, the user profile is sent with distinction of the destination server. Furthermore, when the dynamic user profile stored as the format of the communication control information table shown in Fig. 10A is sent to the user non-identification service providing server 31, the user temporary ID is excluded, and it is sent as a format including ID of the wireless gateway 19 in the same way as in the second embodiment. When the static user profile shown in Fig. 10B is sent to the user identification service providing server 32, the user temporary ID is not excluded and it is sent in a format including the ID of the wireless gateway 19.

[0068] Next, a processing flow of the service request and the service providing according to the third embodiment is explained by referring to Fig. 12. In short, when the mobile terminal 10B transmits a request for user non-identification service, the wireless gateway 19 executes a randomizing operation (user ID \rightarrow user temporary ID), and stores the communication control information table shown in Fig. 10A. Then, the user temporary ID is excluded from this table in Fig. 10A, and the request for user non-identification service as the format including ID of the wireless gateway 19 is sent to the user non-identification service providing server 31.

After the user non-identification service providing server 31 sends the service response information in response to the request, the wireless gateway 19 executes a randomizing operation (user temporary ID \rightarrow user ID), and transfers the service response information to the mobile terminal 10B which sent the request for user non-identification service. In this case, in the mobile terminal 10B, the dynamic user profile stored in the dynamic user profile memory 16 is updated.

[0069] On the other hand, when the mobile terminal 10B sends a request for a user identification service, the wireless gateway 19 executes a randomizing operation (user ID \rightarrow user temporary ID), and stores the communication control information table shown in Fig. 10B. In this case, the user temporary ID is not excluded as shown in Fig. 10B. Then, a request for user identification service in a format including an ID of the wireless gateway 19 is sent to the user identification service providing server 32. When the user identification service providing server 32 sends a service response information in response to the request, the wireless gateway 19 executes a randomizing operation (user temporary ID \rightarrow user ID) and transfers the service response information to the mobile terminal 10B that sent the request for user identification service.

[0070] Fig. 13 is a schematic diagram of an outline of

an application service of the third embodiment. As shown in Fig. 13, an advertisement server, a local EC server, a super market register, a convenience store, and a theme park belong to the user non-identification service. An entrance of the super market, the convenience store, and a notebook PC, belong to the user identification service.

[0071] In this way, in the third embodiment, the user non-identification service not requiring a user identification and the user identification service requiring a user identification are distinctly controlled. Therefore, in case of receiving the user non-identification service, the user can safely receive the service without infringement of the user's privacy.

(The fourth embodiment)

[0072] Fig. 14 is a schematic diagram of a concept according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 14, in case that the user of the mobile terminal is a pedestrian and in case that the user rides in a high speed mobile object such as an automobile, an electric car, a bus, or a motorcycle, a movement area of the former per unit of time is A1, a movement area of the latter per unit of time is A2, and these movement areas are different ($A1 < A2$). Accordingly, when the user receives the location dependent service, object areas necessary for the service information of both cases are naturally different.

[0073] In the fourth embodiment, when the location dependent service providing server 22 provides the location dependent service in response to the service request from the mobile terminal, it is desired that the service for a narrow area is provided if the user of the mobile terminal is a pedestrian, and the service for a wide area is provided if the user rides in a high speed mobile object. In short, in proportion to action area (movement area of the mobile terminal) of the user of the mobile terminal, a search area of service information to be provided as the location dependent service, i.e., a location dependent area (an area to obtain the service information in case that the location of the mobile terminal is regarded as a center position of the area), is adaptively changed.

[0074] In order to concretely realize a providing of adaptive location dependent service according to such user's action area (movement area of the mobile terminal), for example, information related to the speed of the mobile terminal, which represents whether the user is a pedestrian or rides in a high speed mobile object, is acquired and newly added to the static user profile. The information of the moving speed with the service request is sent to the location dependent service providing server 22. In the location dependent service providing server 22, the search area (location dependent area) of service information provided as the location dependent service changes by the information of the moving speed.

[0075] In this way, in the fourth embodiment, the

search area of service information provided as the location dependent service is adaptively changed by the information of moving speed of the mobile terminal. Accordingly, a more useful location dependent service is provided for the user carrying the mobile terminal.

[0076] As mentioned-above, in the present invention, the service suitable for movement of the mobile terminal, i.e., the service dependent on the location of the mobile terminal, is provided for the mobile terminal. Furthermore, the service is provided for the user of the mobile terminal while the user's anonymity is maintained. In short, the service is provided while the anonymity is maintained by type of the service or the user is identified.

[0077] A memory device, including a CD-ROM, floppy disk, hard disk magnetic tape, or semiconductor memory can be used to store instructions for causing a processor or computer to perform the process described above.

[0078] Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with the true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

Claims

1. A service providing method, comprising the steps of:
 - obtaining location information for a mobile terminal sent by the mobile terminal; and
 - providing a service dependent on the location information to the mobile terminal in response to a service request sent by the mobile terminal.
2. The service providing method according to claim 1, wherein the service is provided in an area neighboring the location of the mobile terminal.
3. The service providing method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
 - obtaining a moving speed of the mobile terminal with the location information,
 - wherein the size of the area corresponds to the moving speed of the mobile terminal.
4. The service providing method according to claim 1, 2 or 3
 - further comprising the step of:
 - providing the location information to the mobile terminal in response to a location information request sent by the mobile terminal before the step of obtaining the location information.
5. A service providing system, comprising:
 - a service provider configured to provide a service dependent on location information of a mobile terminal to the mobile terminal in response to a service request with the location information sent by the mobile terminal; and
 - a communication control unit configured to control communication between the mobile terminal and said service provider,
 - wherein said communication control unit converts a user identifier of the mobile terminal in the service request to a temporary identifier.
6. The service providing system according to claim 5, further comprising:
 - a location information provider configured to provide the location information to the mobile terminal in response to a location information request sent by the mobile terminal.
7. The service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said communication control unit stores communication control information consisting of a service request identifier, a service provider name, the location information, the temporary identifier and a parameter in response to the service request and the location information sent by the mobile terminal.
8. The service providing system according to claim 7, wherein said communication control unit sends service request information consisting of the service request identifier, the service provider name, the location identifier, and the parameter to said service provider.
9. The service providing system according to claim 8, wherein said service provider stores service request information consisting of the service request identifier, a wireless gateway identifier of said communication control unit, the location information and the parameter in response to the service request information sent by said communication control unit.
10. The service providing system according to claim 9, wherein said service provider creates service information by referring to the parameter, and sends service response information consisting of the service request identifier, the location information and the service information to said communication control unit.
11. The service providing system according to claim 10, wherein said communication control unit reconverts the temporary identifier corresponding to the service response identifier in the service re-

sponse information to the user identifier in response to the service response information sent by said service provider, and sends the service information to the mobile terminal of the user identifier.

12. The service providing system according to any one of claims 5-11,

further comprising:

a location independent service provider configured to provide a service independent of the location of the mobile terminal to the mobile terminal in response to service request information sent by the mobile terminal through said communication control unit.

13. The service providing system according to claim 12, wherein said communication control unit stores communication control information consisting of the service request identifier, the service provider name, the temporary identifier, and the parameter in response to the service request information irrelevant of the location sent by the mobile terminal, and sends the service request information which is the same as the communication control information to said location independent service provider.

14. A service providing system, comprising:

a user identification service provider configured to provide a service requiring a user identification to a mobile terminal of the user;
a user non-identification service provider configured to provide a service not requiring a user identification to the mobile terminal; and
a communication control unit configured to control communication among the mobile terminal, said user identification service provider, and said user non-identification service provider, wherein said communication control unit converts a user identifier of the mobile terminal in a service request information sent by the mobile terminal to a temporary identifier.

15. The service providing system according to claim 14, wherein said communication control unit sends a user identification service request including the temporary identifier to said user identification service provider in response to a user identification service request sent by the mobile terminal.

16. The service providing system according to claim 15, wherein said communication control unit sends a user non-identification service request without the temporary identifier to said user non-identification service provider in response to a user non-identification service request sent by the mobile terminal.

17. A mobile terminal, comprising:

a dynamic user profile memory configured to store a dynamic user profile representing information dynamically changed over time; the dynamic user profile including location information of the mobile terminal; and
a communication unit configured to send a service request with the dynamic user profile to a location dependent service provider, and to receive service information sent by the location dependent service provider, the service information depending on the location information in the dynamic user profile.

18. The mobile terminal according to claim 17, further comprising:

a location information acquirement unit configured to acquire location information of the mobile terminal, and to update the location information of the dynamic user profile stored in said dynamic user profile memory.

19. The mobile terminal according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the dynamic user profile does not include a user identifier related to a user of the mobile terminal.

20. The mobile terminal according to claim 17, 18 or 19 further comprising:

a static user profile memory configured to store a static user profile representing information not dynamically changed, the static user profile including a user identifier of the user of the mobile terminal.

21. The mobile terminal according to claim 20, wherein said communication unit sends a service request with the static user profile to a location independent service provider, and receives service information sent by the location independent service provider, the service information being independent of the location of the mobile terminal.

22. The mobile terminal according to claim 21, wherein said communication unit sends a service request with the dynamic user profile to a user non-identification service provider, and receives service information sent by the user non-identification service provider, the service information being unnecessary to identify the user.

23. The mobile terminal according to claim 22, wherein said communication unit sends a service request with the static user profile to a user identification service provider, and receives service information sent by the user identification service provider, the service information being necessary

to identify the user.

24. A computer-readable memory containing computer-readable instructions for a mobile terminal, comprising:

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an instruction unit to store a dynamic user profile representing information dynamically changed by a time passage, the dynamic user profile including location information of the mobile terminal;

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an instruction unit to send a service request with the dynamic user profile to an external server; and

an instruction unit to receive service information sent by the external server, the service information depending on the location of the mobile terminal.

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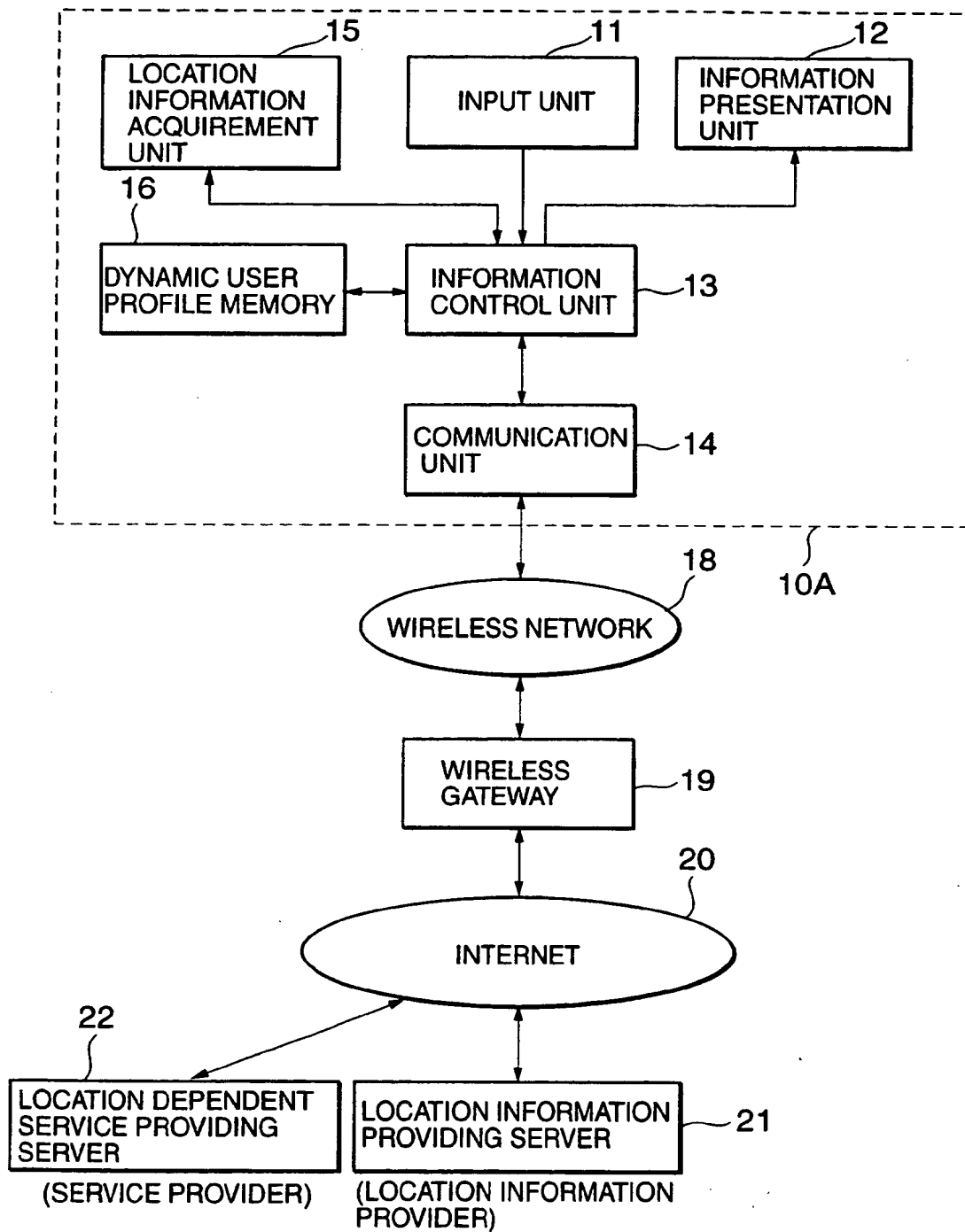


FIG.1

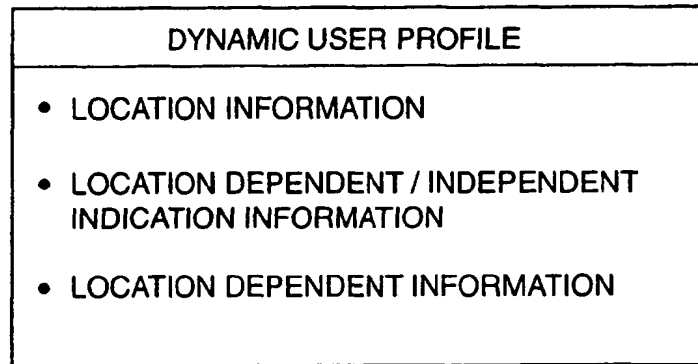


FIG.2

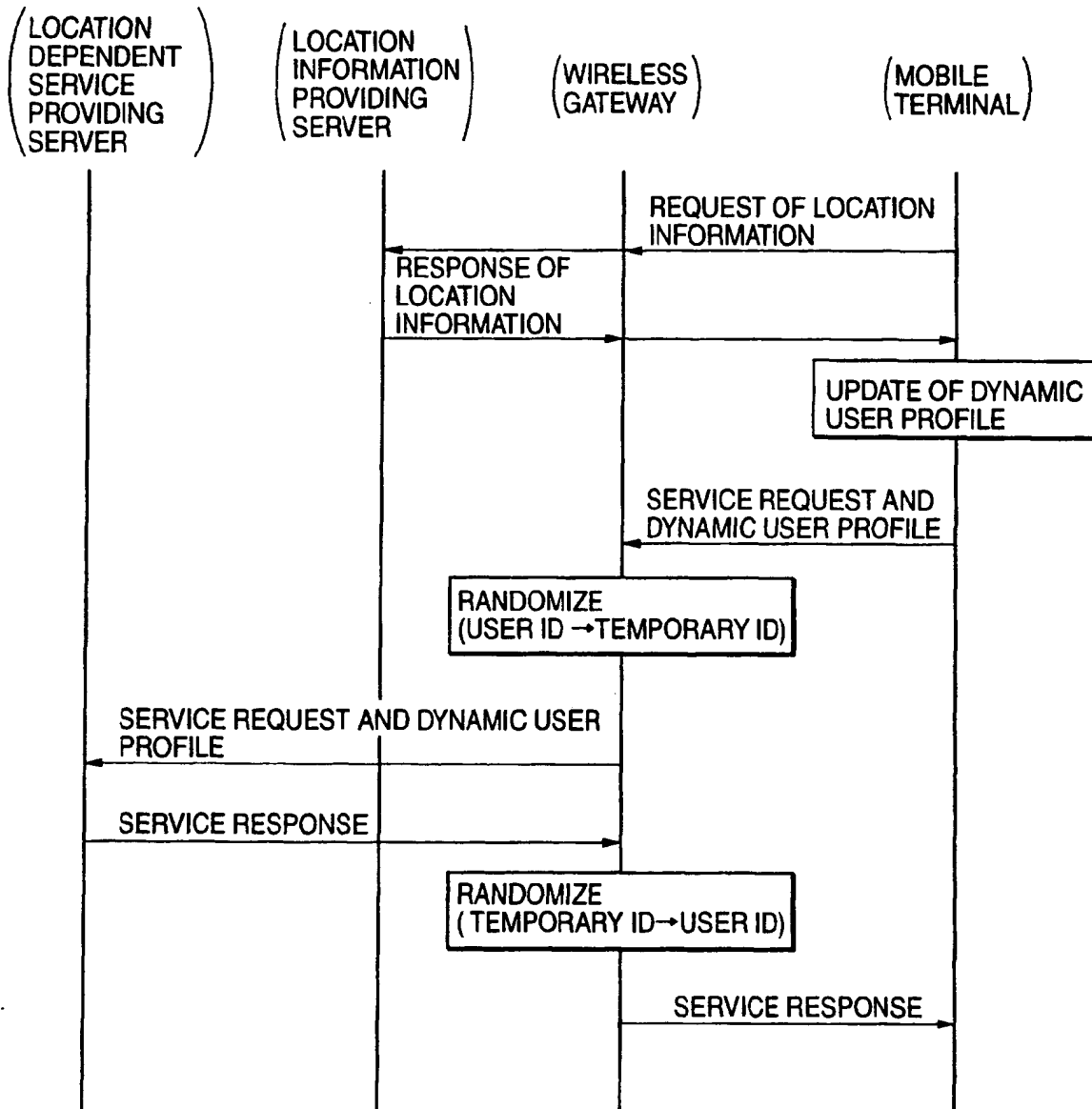


FIG.3

| SERVICE REQUEST ID | SERVICE PROVIDER NAME | LOCATION INFORMATION | USER TEMPORARY ID | PARAMETER |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| p1 | PR1 | (X1,Y1) | UID1 | ds1 |
| p2 | PR2 | (X2,Y2) | UID2 | ds2 |
| p3 | PR2 | NULL | UID3 | ds3 |
| : | : | : | : | : |

FIG.4A

| SERVICE REQUEST ID | SERVICE PROVIDER NAME | LOCATION INFORMATION | PARAMETER |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| p1 | PR1 | (X1,Y1) | ds1 |
| p2 | PR2 | (X2,Y2) | ds2 |
| p3 | PR2 | (X3,Y3) | ds3 |
| : | : | : | : |

FIG.4B

| SERVICE REQUEST ID | WIRELESS GATEWAY ID | LOCATION INFORMATION | PARAMETER |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| p1 | WG1 | (X1,Y1) | ds1 |
| p113 | WG11 | (X2,Y2) | ds2 |
| p9 | WG1 | (X3,Y3) | ds3 |
| : | : | : | : |

FIG.5A

| SERVICE REQUEST ID | LOCATION INFORMATION | CREATION SERVICE INFORMATION |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| p1 | (X1,Y1) | si1 |
| p9 | (X3,Y3) | si9 |
| : | : | : |

FIG.5B

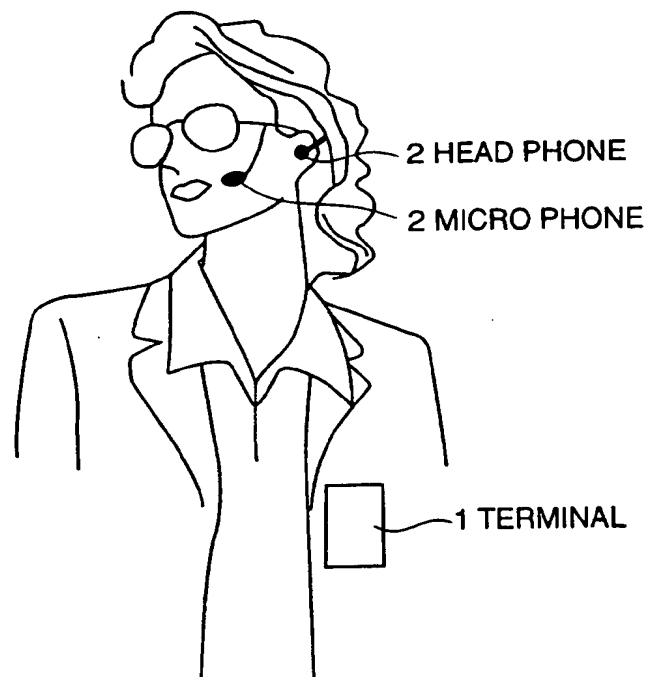


FIG.6

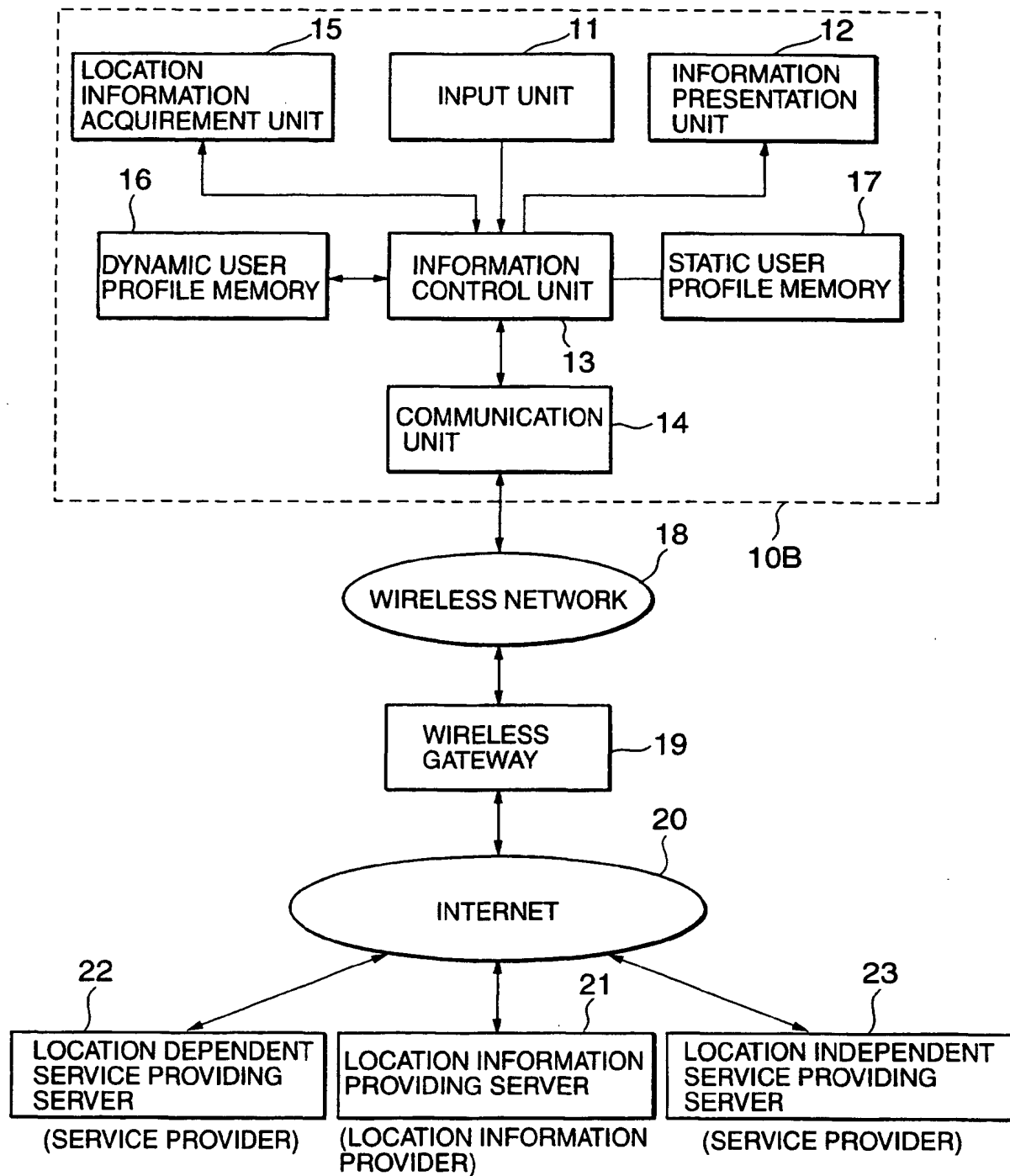


FIG.7

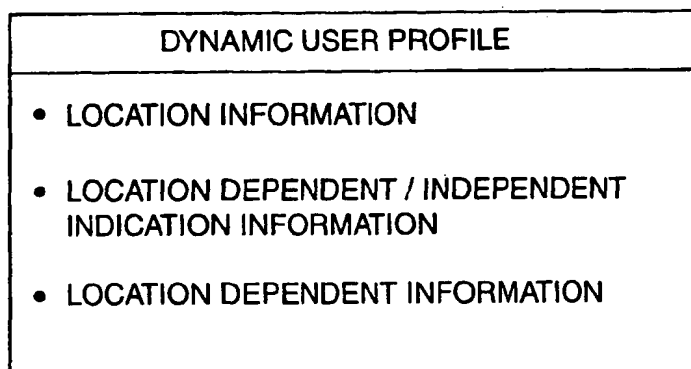


FIG.8A

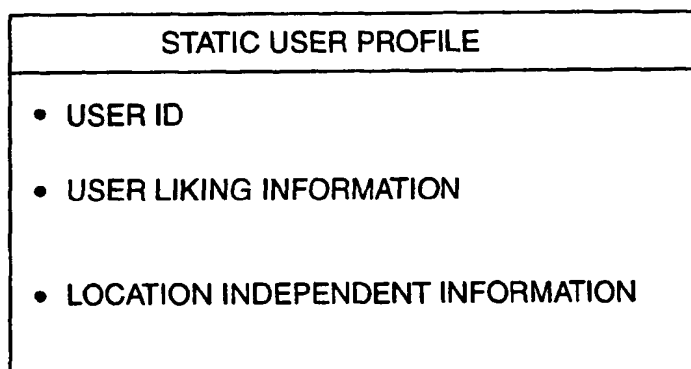


FIG.8B

| HISTORY INFORMATION | LOCATION INFORMATION | PARAMETER |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| tn | (X1,Y1) | ds1 |
| tn-1 | (X2,Y2) | ds1 |

FIG.9A

| USER ID | VALID TERM | PARAMETER |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| AU1 | YYMMDD | uf1 |

FIG.9B

| SERVICE REQUEST ID | SERVICE PROVIDER NAME | LOCATION INFORMATION | USER TEMPORARY ID | PARAMETER |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| p1 | PR1 | (X1,Y1) | UID1 | ds1 |
| p2 | PR2 | (X2,Y2) | UID2 | ds2 |
| p3 | PR2 | NULL | UID3 | ds3 |
| : | : | : | : | : |

FIG.10A

| SERVICE REQUEST ID | SERVICE PROVIDER NAME | USER TEMPORARY ID | PARAMETER |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| up1 | PR1 | au1 | ds11 |
| up2 | PR2 | au2 | ds12 |
| up3 | PR2 | au3 | ds13 |
| : | : | : | : |

FIG.10B

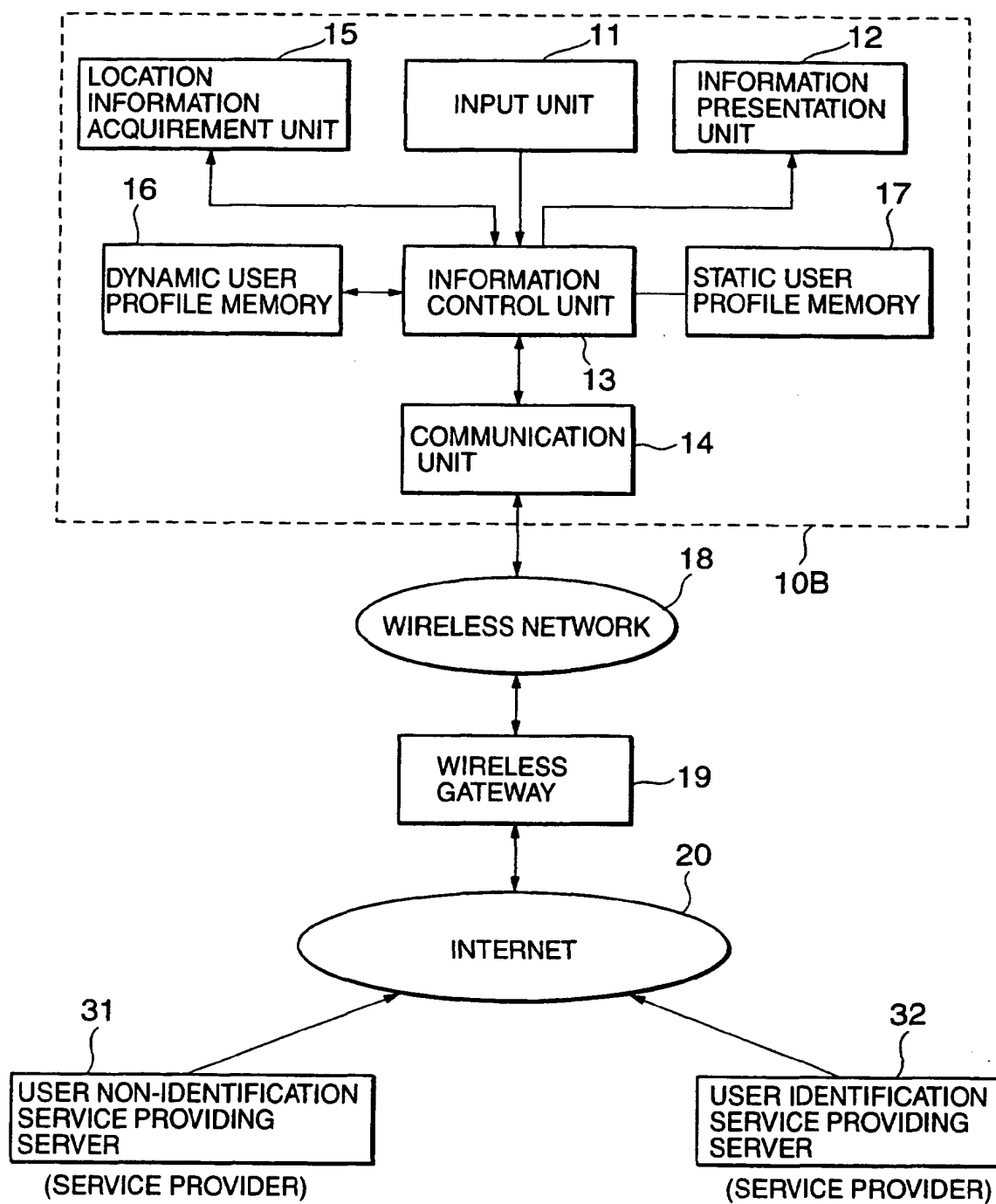


FIG.11

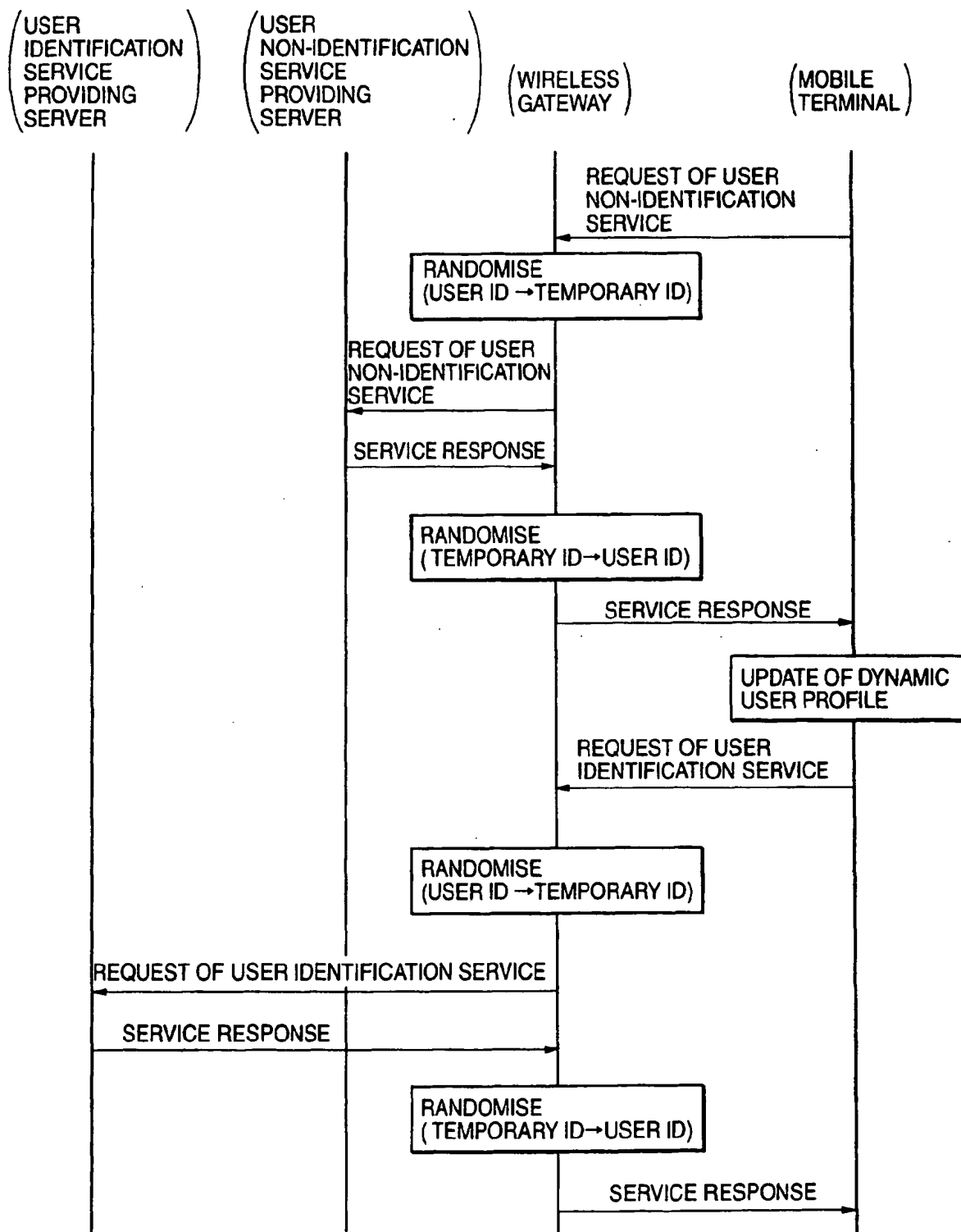


FIG.12

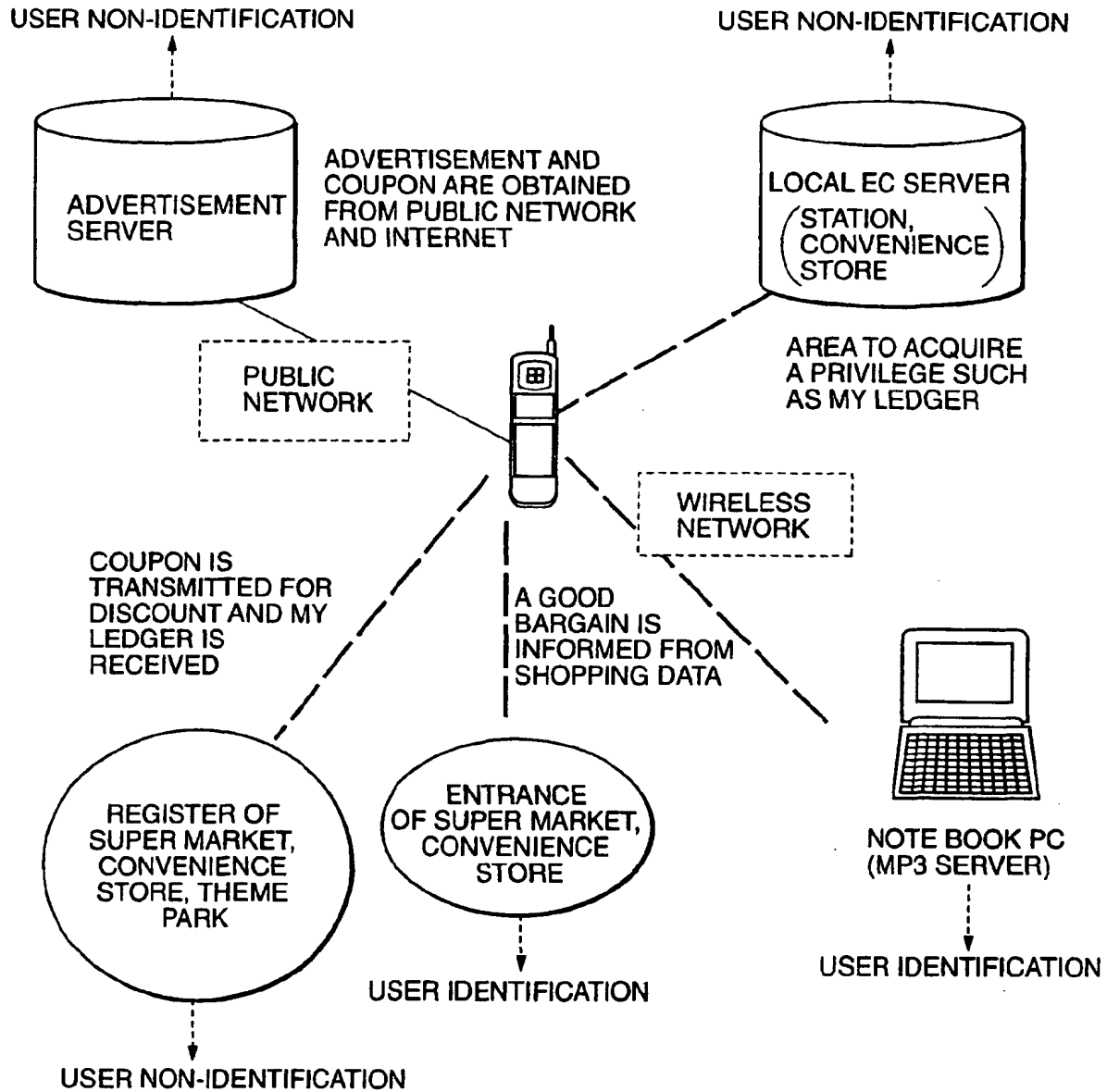


FIG.13

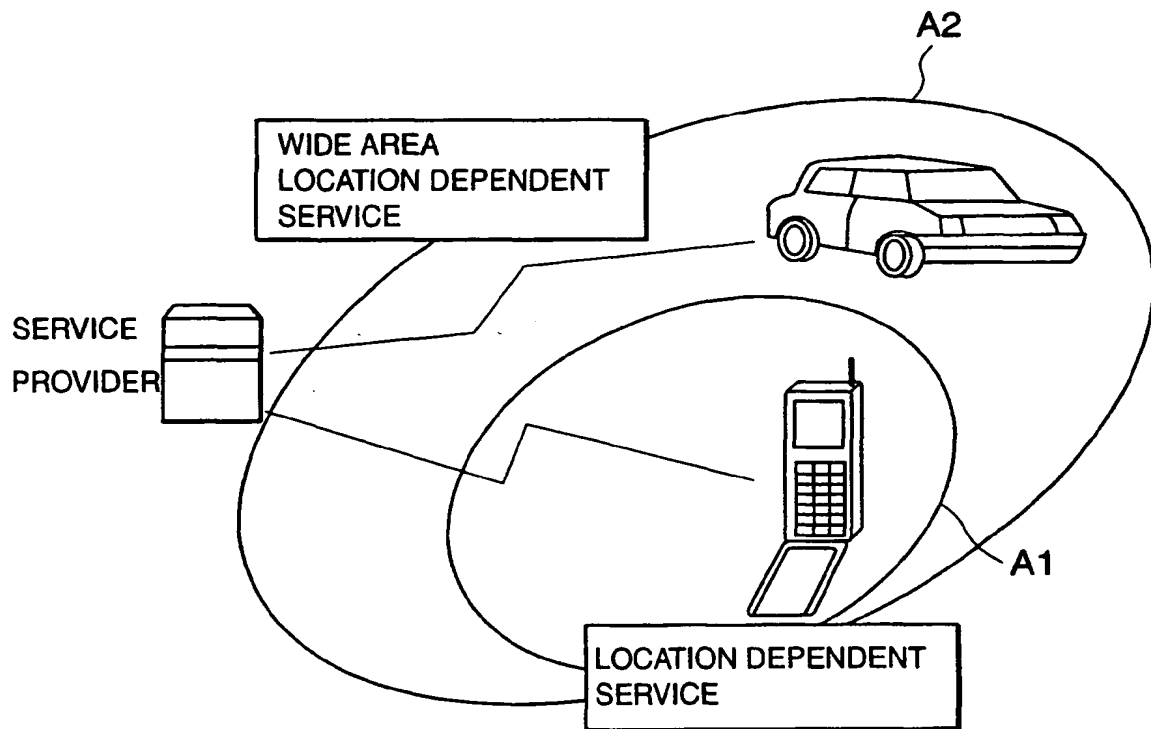
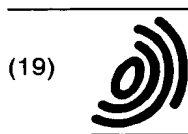


FIG.14

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(54) Location dependent service providing method and system

(57) In a service provider system, a service provider provides service information dependent on location information of a mobile terminal to the mobile terminal in response to a service request with the location information sent by the mobile terminal. A communication control unit controls communication between the mobile terminal and the service provider. The communication control unit converts a user identifier of the mobile terminal in the service request to a temporary identifier for the communication.

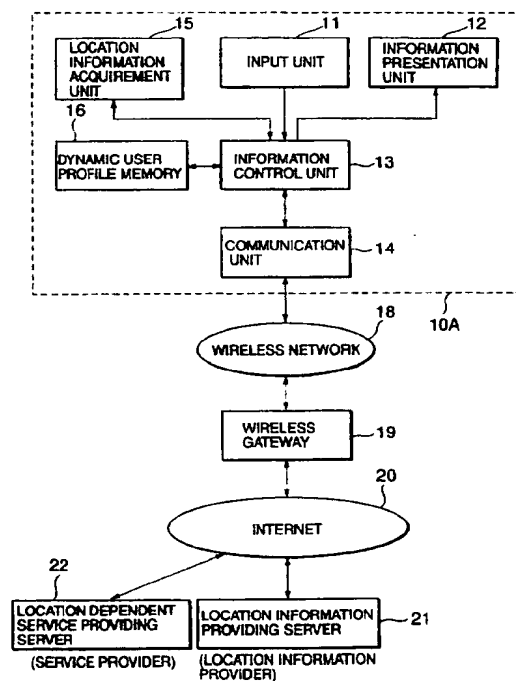


FIG. 1

EP 1 126 732 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 0010

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| Place of search BERLIN | | Date of completion of the search 13 June 2002 | Examiner Danielidis, S |
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EPO FORM 1503 03 B2 (PC/GC01)



European Patent
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Application Number
EP 01 30 0010

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 0010

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| Place of search BERLIN | | Date of completion of the search 13 June 2002 | Examiner Danielidis, S | |
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EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 01 30 0010

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-4

Location dependent services. The speed of the mobile is considered in addition to position in providing the necessary information.

2. Claims: 5-16

Anonymity of user. Withholding the user identifier at the gateway (communication control unit) issuing instead a temporary user identifier which is sent with the service request. Mapping between real and temporary identities exist in gateway.

3. Claims: 17-24

Mobile having stored in it a dynamic profile and a static profile. The dynamic profile can change according to location and/or time, but always it contains no user identification. User identification is contained in the static profile.



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 0010

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search BERLIN | | Date of completion of the search 13 June 2002 | Examiner Danielidis, S |
| <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> | | | |

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P4/C01)

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EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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EP 01 30 0010

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